

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of active devices to be programmed/managed are connected via their management ports to a concentrator device. A communications port of the concentrator device is then connected to a computer. As a result, an operator can manage the plurality of active devices through a single communication port of the computer by selecting, manually or via software, the individual active device to manage. The concentrator device, upon receiving an indication of the active device to manage, establishes a link between its communication port and the management port associated with the selected active device. Alternatively, the operator can select a simultaneous mode wherein the concentrator device establishes a simultaneous link between the its communication port and each of its management ports associated with two or more selected devices. As a result, the operator can send commands to a group of the active devices simultaneously.